

In December 10, 2002, EPA entered into an Order and Agreement for Interim Measures/Removal Action (IM/RA) of Hazardous/Principal Threat Wastes at SBA Shipyards, Inc., Docket No. RCRA-6-2002-0908, pursuant to RCRA Section 3008(h) (“2002 Order/Agreement”) with SBA and SSIC Remediation, LLC (“SSIC”), an entity formed by certain former customers of SBA’s barge cleaning operations to conduct this work. Interim removal activities were conducted from March 2001 through January 2005 under the 2002 Order/Agreement. Interim removal activities consisted of the removing, solidifying, and recycling and/or disposing off-site the waste in the Oil Pit and Water Pit 2 and then over-excavation of the Oil Pit and Water Pit 2; removal and scrapping of above ground storage tanks; draining and refilling of Water Pit 3; removing all pumpable materials from the partially buried barge and disposing those materials off-site, then welding shut all hatches to that barge; and surface scrapping of all visible materials from a former land treatment unit (FLTU). By letter dated February 24, 2006, EPA Region 6’s RCRA branch reviewed and approved the completion report of the IM/RA activities and concluded that the completion report fulfilled the 2002 Order/Agreement. The IM/RA, however, was intended as an interim response; hazardous substance remained onsite after the IM/RA.

In October 2012, the U.S. Coast Guard and the LDEQ responded to a reported release at the barge cleaning portion of the Site from an attempt to scrap the “boiler barge” and the partially buried storage barge by parties contracted by the owner of the southern portion of the Site. During 2014 to 2015, EPA conducted a CERCLA emergency removal action and an Oil Pollution Act of 1990 removal action after LDEQ reported barge scrapping activities and releases of visible liquids at the Site.

Between December 2012 and September 2014, EPA conducted a preliminary assessment, site inspection, and expanded site inspection. As part of EPA activities, the Agency conducted sampling activities at the Site. During those site activities, EPA sampling documented releases or threats of releases of hazardous substances in the subsurface and groundwater of the Site, the Mermentau River, and wetlands surrounding the Site. Numerous hazardous substances were identified at the Site including petroleum hydrocarbons, numerous polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, dioxins/furans, metals, and volatile organic compounds. Petroleum and non-petroleum substances found at portions of the Site are or were comingled.

### **Information to Assist You**

The EPA would like to encourage communication between you, other PRPs, and EPA at the Site. The EPA is in the process of negotiating a remedial investigation/feasibility study administrative settlement and order on consent (“ASAOC”) for the Site with some of the potentially responsible parties. If you’d like to discuss the opportunity to join this ongoing settlement, please contact counsel representing the group of potentially responsible parties below within **30 days** of receipt of this Notice Letter:

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We encourage you to give this matter your immediate attention and request. The EPA plans to finalize the ASAO after the 30-day response period for this General Notice. If you choose not to join the ongoing settlement discussions or pursue other options to satisfy your potential liability with the EPA, the EPA will evaluate enforcement options, including issuing special notice letters to all potentially liable parties known to the EPA at that time.

Also included in this letter to assist you are: the evidentiary documents as Enclosure A; the Small Business Resource Fact Sheet as Enclosure B; and the parties receiving this letter as Enclosure C.

### **Financial Concerns/ Ability-to-Pay Settlements**

The EPA is aware that the financial ability of some PRPs to contribute toward the payment of response costs at a site may be substantially limited. In accordance with Section 122(g)(7) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9622(g)(7), the EPA will review financial information that you submit in order to determine whether you have an inability or a limited ability to pay response costs incurred at the Site. As part of this review, the EPA will take into consideration your overall financial condition and demonstrable constraints on your ability to raise revenue. Based upon the financial information that you may submit, EPA will determine whether it can qualify for a reduction in the settlement amount and/or an alternative payment method within the meaning of Section 122(g)(7) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9622(g)(7).

If you believe that you qualify for a reduction in any settlement amount and/or alternative payment amount under the criteria described in the paragraphs above, please contact Mr. Talton, at 214-665-7475 for information on "Ability to Pay Settlements." In response, you will receive a package of information about the potential for such settlements and an information request for your relevant financial information, and you will be asked to submit financial records including business federal income tax returns. If the EPA concludes that you have a legitimate inability to pay the full amount of the response costs, the EPA may offer a schedule for payment over time or a reduction in the total amount demanded from you.

Also, please note that because the EPA has a potential claim against you, if your financial status changes in any significant way, e.g., filing for bankruptcy, you must include the EPA as a creditor. The EPA reserves the right to file a proof of claim or an application for reimbursement of administrative expenses.

### **Resources and Information for Small Businesses**

As you may be aware, on January 11, 2002, President Bush signed into law the Superfund Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. This Act contains several exemptions and defenses to CERCLA liability, which we suggest that all parties evaluate. You may download a copy of the law at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-107publ118/pdf/PLAW-107publ118.pdf> and review the EPA guidances regarding these exemptions at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/cleanup/superfund/>.